GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5015
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2000
REFUSAL BY RUSSIA TO PURCHASE TOBACCO FROM INDIA
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia used to import 30000-40000 MT tobacco every year uninterrupted from India in the past;

(b) if so, whether for the last five to seven years they have stopped importing of tobacco from India;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to take up this issue with Indo-Russian Joint Commission of Trade, Scientific and Cultural operations meeting which is to be held in Moscow at the end of August, 2000;

(e) if so, whether this item would be put on the agenda of the meeting;

(f) if so, the other efforts being made to persuade Russia to import tobacco from India as in the past; and
(g) the outcome to the talks held in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) No, Sir. The export of tobacco to Russia has receded as the cigarette companies in Russia are increasingly being controlled by multinational companies who have their own established purchase channels.

(d) to (g) The issue of tobacco exports to Russia was taken up with the Russian Government in the 6th meeting of the Indo-Russian Inter Governmental Commission (IGC) held in New Delhi on 14-15th January, 2000. Inter Session Meeting of IGC is scheduled on 2nd September, 2000 in Moscow. The issue of tobacco exports to Russia would be taken up in this Meeting. This issue has been taken up by Government of India with the Russian Authorities in every bilateral meeting. An Indian delegation of tobacco exporters visited Russia in March, 2000 to explore opportunities of tobacco sales to the Russian cigarette factories and hold discussions with Russian Government authorities.